United Nations

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements

on the work of its fifteenth session

25 April-1 May 1995

General Assembly

Official Records • Fiftieth Session
Supplement No.8 (A/50/8)

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I INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Settlements was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977.

2. The report of the Commission on the work of its fifteenth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162.

3. The Commission consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At present, the Commission is composed of the following members:

Austria*
Azerbaijan**
Bahamas**
Barbados*
Belarus*
Botswana*
Brazil***
Bulgaria*
Cameroon***
Canada**
Chile***
China**
Costa Rica***
Dominican Republic***
Finland***
France**
Gabon***
Gambia***
Germany*
Ghana*
Greece*
Haiti*
Hungary**
India*
Indonesia**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)***
Italy**
Jamaica**
Japan***
Jordan*
Kazakstan***
Kenya*
Lesotho**
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**
Madagascar**
Malawi*
Malaysia*
Mexico*
Netherlands**
Nigeria***
Norway*
Pakistan***
Papua New Guinea**
Philippines*
Romania*
Russian Federation***
Somalia**
Sri Lanka*
Sudan*
Sweden**
Turkey***
Uganda***
United Arab Emirates**
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland***
United Republic of Tanzania*
United States of America***
Venezuela**
Zimbabwe***

4. The fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi, from 25 April to 1 May 1995.

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* Term of office expires on 31 December 1995.

** Term of office expires on 31 December 1996.

*** Term of office expires on 31 December 1998.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

5. The session was opened by Mr. D. Johansson (Finland), Chairman of the Commission at its fourteenth session. A summary of his statement is given in annex III, section A.

6. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) delivered a message from the Secretary-General marking the session; the text is reproduced in annex IV. The Assistant Secretary-General also made a statement on the state of human settlements; a summary appears in annex III, section B. A statement was made on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; a summary appears in annex III, section C.

B. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Commission were represented:

Austria
Azerbaijan
Barbados
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kenya
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Philippines
Romania
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

8. The following States not members of the Commission participated as observers:

Algeria
Argentina
Bangladesh
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Guinea
Israel
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Liberia
Lithuania
Maldives
Mauritania
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Niger

Paraguay	Saudi Arabia	Swaziland
Poland	Senegal	Thailand
Portugal	Seychelles	Togo
Republic of Korea	Sierra Leone	Ukraine
Rwanda	Slovakia	Yemen
Sao Tome and Principe	South Africa	Zaire
	Spain	Zambia

9. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

10. The observer of Palestine to the United Nations participated.

11. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations International Drug Control Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Volunteers
World Food Programme
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

League of Arab States
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Organization of African Unity
Shelter-Afrique

14. The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania was also represented.

15. In addition, 49 non-governmental organizations were present as observers.

C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 25 April 1995, Mr. Boris G. Maiorski (Russian Federation) was elected Chairman.

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, the following other officers of the Bureau were elected:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. B. S. Rachmadi (Indonesia)
Mr. J. Zetter (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. A. Lizarralde (Venezuela)

Rapporteur: Mr. A. Zanga (Cameroon)

D. Credentials

18. Under rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Bureau examines the credentials submitted by delegations and reports thereon to the Commission.

19. Pursuant to the above-mentioned rule, the Bureau reported to the Commission at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the fifteenth session of the Commission and had found them to be in order. The Commission approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 April 1995, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session, as contained in document HS/C/15/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

7. Special themes:

   (a) Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, in 1976;

   (b) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters in human settlements.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997.

9. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997.

10. Coordination matters:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

11. Themes for the sixteenth and future sessions of the Commission.

12. Other matters.

13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

14. Adoption of the report of the session.

15. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 25 April 1995, the Commission established two sessional committees of the whole and allocated agenda items to them as follows:

Committee I: Agenda items 5, 6 and 7 (a) and (b);

Committee II: Agenda items 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

22. Committee I held six meetings, from 25 to 28 April, and Committee II held seven meetings, from 25 to 29 April 1995. The recommendations of both committees have been incorporated in the present report.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission

23. The present report was adopted by the Commission at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995.

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

24. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission decided that its sixteenth session would be held from 28 April to 7 May 1997 at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the following provisional agenda for its sixteenth session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Credentials.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.

5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

6. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

7. Special themes:

   (a) Contribution of the private and non-governmental sectors to shelter delivery to low-income groups;

   (b) Management of natural resources in the context of sustainable human settlements.

8. The right of the child, particularly with respect to shelter and related services.

9. Medium-term plan for the period 1998-2003.

10. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1998-1999.

11. Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1998-1999.

12. Coordination matters:

   (a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

   (b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

13. Themes for the seventeenth and future sessions of the Commission.

14. Other matters.

15. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the seventeenth session of the Commission.

16. Adoption of the report of the session.

17. Closure of the session.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

26. In his closing remarks, the Assistant Secretary-General congratulated the delegations on their work at the fifteenth session, the last before the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in 1996. A new phase of the work of the Commission therefore lay ahead after Istanbul, and the challenge lay in creating a new role for the Centre after Habitat II, for on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the work of the Commission and the Centre had never been more urgent. It was, therefore, the right moment for a commitment to fundamental principles, the paramount one of which was "adequate shelter for all", the bedrock on which Habitat II must build. Shelter was not only central to human development and societal equality, but also a primary engine of economic growth and development. Further, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that the problems produced by rapid urbanization could not be solved by a single level of government; it required close collaboration between all levels of government and the entire spectrum of civil society. Of special importance were local authorities, and in that connection, the Assistant Secretary-General made reference to the recently signed "Protocol of Lisbon" between the Centre and prominent international local-government associations. The Assistant Secretary-General referred to the active collaboration between the secretariats of the Habitat II Conference and the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing later in 1995, for the problems of human settlements would not be solved until women and men stood together as equal partners. In fact, the engagement of all members of "our global village" would be the key to success of the action programme to be approved in Istanbul, as would be an urban Agenda 21, which would activate and involve everyone at the local level and be Istanbul's legacy from Rio de Janeiro. The same was true of the other United Nations conferences of the decade: their aims were to be integrated with what will be accomplished at the Habitat II Conference. In that connection, the Assistant Secretary-General also referred to other initiatives, in particular the conference to be held in Dubai in a few months time on best practices to improve the living environment and quality of life of people. That conference would be a valuable contribution to the Habitat II preparatory process and to the implementation of Agenda 21, and the Assistant Secretary-General thanked the Municipality of Dubai for the initiative. Finally, the Assistant Secretary-General reminded the Commission of its role as a catalyst for change. Looking at future challenges, they required new sources of funding, changes in structures and new partnerships. Habitat II could only set the stage; the members of the Commission must play the lead roles. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General referred to ongoing conflicts and destruction of settlements, in particular in Africa, and called on members of the Commission to speak out on that matter in order to change the course of events. The mission of the Commission was to build and to work for the well-being of humankind.

27. In their closing statements, the representatives of the regional groups expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the hospitality they had extended to all participants and for the excellent support they had given the Commission at its fifteenth session. Remarks were also made on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

28. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the Chairmen of the regional groups, and all representatives for their contributions to the successful completion of the work of the fifteenth session of the Commission.

29. The Chairman then declared the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements closed.

ANNEX I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifteenth session

		Date of adoption	Page
	A. Resolutions		
	1. Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly		
15/1	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	1 May 1995	12
	2. Other resolutions		
15/2	Report on housing rights strategy	1 May 1995	16
15/3	Promoting the participation of women in human settlements development	1 May 1995	17
15/4	Role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their families in Africa within the framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s	1 May 1995	19
15/5	Countries with economies in transition	1 May 1995	21
15/6	Urban and housing performance indicators	1 May 1995	21
15/7	Strengthening the presence of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Latin American and Caribbean region	1 May 1995	24
15/8	Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme on the urban environment	1 May 1995	25
15/9	Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the activities of the Centre	1 May 1995	26
15/10	Priorities for national action to provide housing for all	1 May 1995	27
15/11	Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters	1 May 1995	29
15/12	Coordination matters	1 May 1995	33

		Date of adoption	Page
15/13	Cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of human settlements development	1 May 1995	34
15/14	Concrete measures towards the full realization of children's housing rights	1 May 1995	36

B. Decisions

15/15	Fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000	1 May 1995	37
15/16	Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	1 May 1995	38
15/17	Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997	1 May 1995	38
15/18	Budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997	1 May 1995	38
15/19	New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system	1 May 1995	39
15/20	Themes for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session	1 May 1995	39

A. Resolutions

1. Resolution requiring action by the General Assembly

15/1. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 43/181 of 20 December 1988, 46/163 of 19 December 1991 and 48/178 of 21 December 1993 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 12/1 of 3 May 1989, 13/1 of 8 May 1991 and 14/1 of 5 May 1993 on the Global Strategy,

Bearing in mind the relevant aspects of Agenda 21, a/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Programme of Action b/ adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development c/ and the Programme of Action, d/ adopted at the World Summit for Social Development,

Recognizing that the operational focus of the Global Strategy is on action taken at the local, national and international levels and that regular monitoring of the impact of the national shelter strategy on the shelter situation in Member States is a crucial aspect of the implementation of the Strategy,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, e/ which concludes that, whereas a large number of Member States have adopted enabling policies in the shelter sector, further action is required to create the enabling institutional and legislative frameworks for successful enabling strategies,

1. Adopts the fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 f/ and the proposed plan of action and timetable for 1996-1997, g/ and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human

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a/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

b/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1.

c/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

d/ Ibid., annex II.

e/ HS/C/15/3/Add.3 and Add.4.

f/ HS/C/15/3/Add.5.

g/ HS/C/15/3/Add.1.

Settlements (Habitat) to transmit them through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/181;

2. Takes note with satisfaction that many Governments have taken steps to enhance their existing national shelter strategies or to formulate new strategies based on the principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

3. Reiterates its invitation to Governments to integrate the review of their national shelter strategies into the preparations of the national plans of action for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to intensify their efforts towards the implementation of these strategies using the Guidelines for National Action contained in section III of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 h/ and the Plan of Action for 1996-1997, with particular emphasis on improving the institutional and legal frameworks in the shelter sector;

4. Recommends that Governments adopt a system for monitoring the impact of national shelter strategies on the supply of housing and on the development of living conditions by applying appropriate housing indicators as a means of assessing the performance of the national shelter sector, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

5. Urges Governments to use these indicators when preparing their national report for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as well as apply them in order to prepare annual progress reports which indicate in quantitative terms the impact of the new strategies, and to publicize them within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day, and also to submit them annually to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

6. Invites Governments to continue to implement the recommendations contained in chapters 7 and 28 of Agenda 21 a/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue and enhance the support given to the efforts of member countries by collecting and disseminating information on successful country experiences in various aspects of the human settlements sector;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to provide within available resources technical assistance and training on economically, socially and environmentally sustainable enabling policies and strategies and on practical ways and means of formulating, adopting and implementing them;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to contribute within available resources to the system-wide implementation of the shelter-related recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit on Social Development as well as collaborate with relevant capacity-building and other programmes executed by other agencies, both within and outside the United Nations system, such as the Capacity 21 Programme of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to provide specific assistance to developing countries in adopting and implementing enabling strategies;

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h/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

10. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the next phase of the Global Strategy;

11. Urges the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to take into account the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy in preparing the Global Strategy Plan of Action;

12. Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption, at its fiftieth session, of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in which it affirmed that a mid-term review of the implementation of the Global Strategy should be conducted at the Conference,

"Recalling further that the objective of the Strategy is to facilitate adequate shelter for all by the year 2000 through the implementation of enabling strategies in the shelter sector,

"Noting that the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session considered the mid-term review of the Strategy,

"Noting with satisfaction the renewed commitment to the Global Strategy expressed in Agenda 21, a/ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in the Programme of Action i/ adopted at the World Summit for Social Development, as well as the priority given in the Programme of Action b/ adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development to measures for improving the living environment,

"Bearing in mind the high potential of enabling shelter strategies, which rely on labour-intensive and locally based technologies, to generate employment, demand for local products and savings, and thereby promote economic development and poverty reduction,

"Bearing in mind also that enabling strategies typically include activities such as institutional reform, revision of building codes and regulations, and steps aimed at facilitating the access of the poor to critical resources, especially land and finance, which can best be implemented through partnership arrangements among the public, private and community sectors and the empowerment of the poor and of women,

"Noting that the concept of enabling strategies is an important lesson learned in the development of living conditions since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to

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i/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

11 June 1976, and that broad commitment to the implementation of such strategies represents a viable way of reversing the trend towards deterioration of those conditions,

"Recognizing that, since the adoption of the Global Strategy, additional weight has been given to and further insights have been reached into several essential aspects of enabling shelter strategies, such as the requirement for sensitivity to gender considerations, and their potential for contributing to environmentally sustainable development,

"Aware that adequate information plays a pivotal role in the proper analysis of the outcome, opportunities and constraints of current housing processes, and in assessing the impact of policies, strategies and programmes thereon,

"Having considered the fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, f/

"Noting with satisfaction that a number of Governments have initiated or reformulated national shelter strategies based on the principle of enabling all actors in the shelter sector, that many other Governments have initiated action on particular components of a national shelter strategy and, further, that a number of Governments have commenced a process for applying selected indicators for monitoring the progress and efficiency of their national shelter strategies,

"Noting also with satisfaction the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

"Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national and international levels for the implementation of the Global Strategy,

"1. Commends Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

"2. Urges Governments, in connection with the preparation of their national plans of action for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as and when appropriate, to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and principles of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and to review them regularly with a view to ensuring the improvement of living conditions, particularly of the rural and urban poor, women and the homeless;

"3. Recommends that Governments adopt a system for monitoring the progress of their national shelter strategy and, when assessing the performance of the shelter sector, also adopt, as far as is feasible, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations, guidelines for monitoring national shelter strategies and the application of indicators, and publicize the guidelines within their countries, particularly on World Habitat Day;

"4. Recommends also that Governments submit the above-mentioned reports to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in order to facilitate the preparation of the reports on the implementation of the Global Strategy for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements;

"5. Also urges Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21;

"6. Invites Governments to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy;

"7. Urges the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

"8. Urges the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, to provide, on the basis of an approach consistent with the Global Strategy, increased financial and other support to Governments for the implementation of the Global Strategy Plan of Action;

"9. Adopts the Global Strategy Plan of Action for 1996-1997, and urges Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action;

"10. Requests the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to take into account the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy, as well as the Plan of Action for 1996-1997, in the preparation of the Global Strategy Plan of Action."

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

2. Other resolutions

15/2. Report on housing rights strategy

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 14/6 of 5 May 1993 on the human right to adequate housing,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), entitled "Towards a housing rights strategy: practical contributions by UNCHS (Habitat) on promoting, ensuring and protecting the full realization of the human right to adequate housing"; i/

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i/ HS/C/15/2/Add.2.

2. Requests the Executive Director to undertake, in consultation with other relevant United Nations bodies, a further examination and update of the report mentioned in paragraph 1, taking into consideration the legal, social, economic, political and practical aspects of the subject and the views and concerns expressed by some Member States, including those regarding the existence and/or legal status of the right to adequate housing;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on this matter.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/3. Promoting the participation of women in human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000,

Recognizing the role of women in human settlements development as a key component in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 k/ and the importance of empowering women to participate in this process and making their participation visible,

Recalling also its resolution 14/4 of 5 May 1993, in which it urged all Governments to implement measures in the development of a shelter strategy which strengthen the participation and empowerment of women in settlement development and management at local, regional and national levels,

Deeply concerned about the continued increase of widespread poverty in a large number of developing countries and the trend towards the "feminization of poverty" in the world's human settlements,

Also concerned that, in many societies, women still do not have legal rights to housing, land and access to credit, which constitute essential prerequisites for the realization of the full participation and empowerment of women,

Emphasizing the important role of women in contributing to sustainable consumption and production in human settlements development,

1. Urges all Governments to implement measures in the human settlements development sector that strengthen the participation and empowerment of women in human settlements development and management at local, regional and national levels, and to develop programmes that ensure women the right to land and house-ownership and tenure and access to credit, with special emphasis on women living in poverty;

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k/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

2. Also urges Governments to review and, if necessary, repeal any gender-discriminatory legislation in the field of human settlements development;

3. Further urges Governments to utilize women's knowledge of and contribution to sustainable consumption and production in human settlements by including women as decision makers and managers in human settlements development projects and programmes;

4. Requests Governments to include gender-impact analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of human settlements programmes and policies;

5. Invites Governments and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to strengthen their collaboration with relevant non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in facilitating the participation of women in sustainable human settlements development;

6. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the efforts to strengthen the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive shelter-strategy development, as described in the reports on women's participation in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 l/ and promoting the advancement of women in human settlements, m/ through its Women in Human Settlements Development Programme;

7. Requests the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive human settlements development;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to include in the guidelines on legal rights to housing and land tenure and access to credit for women the issue of gender-impact analysis on human settlements programmes and policies;

9. Further requests the Executive Director, in his substantive contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in September 1995, to emphasize the issues highlighted in the paragraphs above;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to incorporate the above-mentioned measures in all relevant parts of the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 1996-1997;

11. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to include the above-mentioned issues in the preparations for the Conference;

12. Invites Governments to continue and, if possible, increase their support through the various financial mechanisms of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to this programme area and, in this connection, consider the potential of new and innovative methods of financing;

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l/ HS/C/14/2/Add.3.

m/ HS/C/15/2/Add.1.

13. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/4. Role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their families in Africa within the framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in the latter of which the Assembly urged all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to incorporate the priorities of the New Agenda in their mandates,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 48/25 of 29 November 1993 and 49/64 of 15 December 1994 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 48/118 of 20 December 1993 and 49/174 of 23 December 1994 on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa,

Deeply concerned about the enormous burden that the massive pressure of refugees and returnees places on the meagre resources of affected countries, especially on infrastructure and services,

Deeply concerned also about the grave situation that affected Governments face in grappling with the resulting unemployment and economic dislocation,

Alarmed by the fact that there are currently sixteen million refugees and twenty million internally displaced people in Africa in need of international assistance for the provision of shelter, and the necessary infrastructure for shelter,

Alarmed especially by the grave consequences that the massive displacement of populations would have on the economic recovery and development of the African region, with specific reference to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, n/

Noting the decision of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development to designate the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the associate lead agency for the continuum from relief to development, that is, relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

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n/ General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex.

Noting also that the Centre's worldwide experience in this field would be greatly enhanced by this regional focus, thereby facilitating interregional exchange in seeking solutions globally,

Recognizing the need for cooperation between the Governments concerned and the international community to mobilize the necessary international resources, including financial, technical and managerial resources, to implement programmes of human settlements for refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

Recognizing also the importance of assistance to host countries, in particular those countries that have been hosting long-term refugees, to remedy environmental deterioration and the negative impact on human settlements infrastructure and services as well as the overall economic development process,

Bearing in mind that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

Bearing in mind also that most of the affected countries are least developed countries,

1. Notes with appreciation the concern felt by the international community for the plight of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and their families in Africa and the efforts and assistance so far rendered to relieve this plight;

2. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development to designate the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the associate lead agency for the continuum from relief to development and requests the Executive Director of the Centre to take appropriate steps to facilitate the implementation of that decision;

3. Requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy in support of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their families in Africa in line with the System-wide Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

4. Invites Governments of affected countries to give necessary assistance to the Executive Director in developing this human settlements strategy in support of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their families in Africa;

5. Urges Governments to evolve human settlements strategies that prevent stress on refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their families;

6. Requests the Executive Director to complement the efforts of other relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as relevant regional institutions, including regional banks, to develop well-coordinated support programmes designed to catalyse the mobilization of resources for the provision of assistance in addressing the human settlements concerns of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and their families, with special focus on vulnerable groups, in particular women and children;

7. Requests the international community and development agencies to provide assistance to affected countries to remedy environmental deterioration

and the negative impact arising from the situation of refugees on infrastructure and services as well as on the overall economic development process;

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/5. Countries with economies in transition

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling resolutions of the General Assembly on countries with economies in transition,

Recalling, in particular, General Assembly resolution 49/106 of 19 December 1994, in which the Assembly invited the United Nations system to continue its support for the efforts of countries with economies in transition as they transform their economies and integrate them in the world economy,

Reaffirming that the full integration of countries with economies in transition as well as all other countries into the world economy is essential to sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for promotion of reforms in housing and urban management and development in countries with economies in transition,

Taking note of the progress achieved so far in assisting countries with economies in transition with their human settlements problems,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to provide policy advice and technical assistance to countries with economies in transition, tailored to each country's respective economic and social problems, in the field of housing and human settlements;

2. Invites the Executive Director to consider inclusion in the Global Plan of Action and the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997 subsections specifically reflecting the problems and needs of countries with economies in transition;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/6. Urban and housing performance indicators

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 13/9 of 8 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to complete the design of and test the internationally comparable set of

policy-sensitive shelter sector indicators under development by the Centre and the World Bank, as part of the assessment procedure for monitoring the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 14/13 of 5 May 1993, in which it decided to urge the acceleration of a plan for nationwide coverage and globalization of the Shelter Sector Indicators Programme, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on Shelter Sector Performance Indicators, o/

Recognizing the importance of many vital issues relating to human settlements, including poverty, productivity, infrastructure, transport, the environment, local government and urban sustainability issues, as well as housing issues which are the subject of the shelter sector indicators,

Taking note of the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators for Country Reporting, p/ submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at its first session, which considered the development of a set of urban indicators to extend and complement the shelter sector indicators,

Aware of the decision of the Preparatory Committee to strengthen the capacity of institutions at all levels to monitor shelter conditions and urbanization processes using a minimum set of substantially uniform and consistent indicators, q/ and to encourage participating countries to produce a factual description and analysis of the quality, quantity, availability, accessibility and affordability of shelter and diagnose human settlements conditions through these indicators, r/

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on urban and housing indicators, s/ and the supplementary report on developments in urban and housing indicators, t/ which describe the development of a complete system of urban and housing indicators, including a minimal set of key indicators, their uses as an analytical and monitoring tool on behalf of all stakeholders involved in the urban and shelter sectors, and progress towards collecting the indicators worldwide,

1. Commends the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for its efforts in developing a complete system of internationally comparable policy-sensitive urban and housing indicators designed as an analytical tool to assist all stakeholders in monitoring progress towards achieving urban and shelter sector objectives;

2. Welcomes the establishment of an Indicators Programme within the Centre which aims at encouraging all countries and cities to utilize and further

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o/ HS/C/14/3/Add.1.

p/ A/CONF.165/PC.1/INF.3.

q/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37), annex I, decision I/2, para. 3 (b).

r/ Ibid., para. 4 (b) (i).

s/ HS/C/15/3/Add.2.

t/ HS/C/15/3/Add.6.

develop urban and housing indicators as a tool for monitoring progress towards meeting national and city objectives, and to make use of the system of indicators developed by the Centre as the basis for monitoring systems of performance indicators;

3. Endorses the list of key indicators contained in the supplementary report on developments in urban and housing indicators and in the report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on guidelines for national preparations, u/ being nine key background data indicators, twenty-seven key urban indicators and ten key housing indicators, as the minimal set of indicators to be collected as part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and urges Governments, as part of their preparations for the Conference, to collect at least the key indicators from the indicators system for one or more cities and at the national level, and to use these and other indicators as the quantitative basis for country reporting on the status of human settlements for the Conference;

4. Recommends that actors at all levels, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and, in particular, local and regional governments, be involved in the development and collection of indicators to meet local needs and monitor local conditions, and that national Governments maintain an enabling and coordinating role to permit the full utilization of local capacity in the process of developing, maintaining and using indicators as part of policy monitoring and evaluation;

5. Recommends that countries in a position to do so provide a financial contribution to the Centre so that requesting Governments can be supported in indicators collection as part of the preparations for the Conference and as a long-term capacity-building strategy for monitoring the urban and housing sectors;

6. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to establish a global housing and urban observatory that would permit comparative international evaluation of progress in meeting the aims of the Global Action Plan which is to be adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and which would draw attention to and provide information on human settlements conditions worldwide;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to initiate action to introduce urban and housing indicators into global reports and international indicator systems, specifically the Global Report on Human Settlements, the World Development Report, the Indicators for Sustainable Development system coordinated by the Commission for Sustainable Development as part of the implementation of Agenda 21, v/ and any other reports or indicator systems published or collected on a regular basis, to focus attention on human settlements and their importance for the sustainable development of national economies;

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u/ A/CONF.165/PC.2/2/Add.1.

v/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

8. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/7. Strengthening the presence of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Latin American and Caribbean region

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 14/7 of 5 May 1993 on strengthening of regional activities, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to give high priority to regional activities within the framework of the Centre's development-oriented efforts,

Noting that the Executive Office of the Centre sent a letter, dated 16 December 1994, to all Permanent Missions of the countries in the region, stating the intention to establish an office of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean and inviting Governments to indicate their interest in hosting the office,

Taking into consideration the report of the Executive Director on strengthening of regional activities, w/ in which it is emphasized that the way to improve the level of efficiency of the operational activities of the Centre is through the selective opening of regional offices,

Emphasizing that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States has taken up the debate, once again, on the urgent need for the Centre to have a stronger institutional presence in the region,

1. Supports the activities embarked upon by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in consultation with Governments, to establish regional offices of the Centre as a way of strengthening its presence and activities in the regions;

2. Requests the Executive Director to hasten steps and activities for the creation of an office of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the shortest time possible, to support the region's national activities in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as well as to increase the volume and efficiency of the Centre's operational activities in the region;

3. Also requests the Executive Director to establish that regional office based on the following criteria:

(a) That it should possess an adequate and efficient structural and functional design and that the personnel who will be transferred to the office are those who are already supporting operational activities, and that it should be financed by resources generated through the execution of projects in the region;

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w/ HS/C/15/2/Add.3.

(b) That it should have the potential to expand its activities in the region, on the basis of greater proximity and efficiency;

(c) That its establishment should not affect the resources assigned to the Centre's global programmes;

(d) That, in determining its location, account will be taken of economic, social and geographic aspects;

4. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a report to the Commission at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/8. Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme on the urban environment

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolutions 8/14 of 8 May 1985 and 10/3 of 16 April 1987 concerning cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of urban environment,

Recalling also recommendations of Agenda 21 x/ regarding capacity-building in urban environmental management and inter-agency cooperation,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, y/ including the report on expanded joint activities in urban environmental management,

2. Commends the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme on their decision to join forces in the Sustainable Cities Programme, and thus translate into concrete and practical action the repeated calls of the Commission on Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for more effective collaboration between the two Nairobi-based United Nations agencies,

3. Supports the agreement between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme for mobilizing the scientific and technical resources that the two agencies could contribute to the joint Sustainable Cities Programme facility and for developing

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x/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda) resolution 1, annex II.

y/ HS/C/15/10.

a strategy, work programme and budget for a joint Sustainable Cities Programme project portfolio and associated programme-level support,

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), within available resources, to extend Sustainable Cities Programme support to additional cities, based on the lessons of operational experience in past and ongoing Sustainable Cities Programme demonstrations and as a means for implementing Agenda 21 recommendations related to urban environment,

5. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to accelerate Sustainable Cities Programme operations in order to provide substantive input on sustainable development to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) that is based on specific local operational experiences;

6. Calls upon the international donor community to extend the technical and financial support needed for an effective joint United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)/United Nations Environment Programme Sustainable Cities Programme facility.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/9. Progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the activities of the Centre

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Having reviewed the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the activities of the Centre, z/

Aware of the new problems and challenges in human settlements that create new opportunities for the Centre in their environmental, physical, economic and social context,

1. Welcomes with appreciation the new format of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), pursuant to its resolution 14/2 of 5 May 1993, and commends the Executive Director on the quality of the report;

2. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to review all previous instructions by the Commission with a view to streamlining and reducing the extent of documentation for reporting to the Commission by, inter alia, reducing the length of all documents, except the theme paper and financial documents of a special nature, to a maximum of four pages, and reducing the number of reports by at least a quarter by avoiding duplication;

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z/ HS/C/15/2.

3. Invites Member States in a position to do so to increase their support to the Centre to enable it to carry out its mandated activities, including the provision of policy advice to Member States.

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/10. Priorities for national action to provide housing for all

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its decision 14/25 of 5 May 1993 on the themes for consideration by the Commission at its fifteenth session, in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was requested to prepare, inter alia, a theme paper on the review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which was held in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

Recalling also its resolutions 14/1 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, 14/13 on Shelter Sector Performance Indicators and 14/20 on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), all of 5 May 1993, which emphasized the importance of the review of shelter policies and strategies at the national level in the future work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as well as in the preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul in 1996,

Recognizing the effects of the changing economic, social and political conditions, trends and policies in the past two decades which have moved from a focus on public-sector interventions to an enabling approach, and the impacts of those changes on the implementation of housing policies,

Recognizing also that substantive progress has been made in many countries in the formulation of national shelter strategies which are the basis for coherent, effective and efficient action in the field of human settlements,

Recognizing further the need to take measures for effective government action to address supply constraints in the housing sector, to facilitate the liberalization and deregulation of the land and housing markets,

Aware that provision of security of tenure to all people living in both rental and owner-occupied housing is a fundamental step towards improving the housing situation in every society,

Aware also of the need to strengthen linkages between different actors in the housing sector and to promote in national and global approaches the lessons learned from successful projects and programmes,

Aware further that sustainability must be based on systems that reward performance, assure more local control over resources and encourage a process of urban reform at the local level, involving, in particular, those directly concerned,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the report on national action to provide housing for

all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1976, aa/ and takes note of the main findings and recommendations to guide future action at the national and local levels to provide housing for all;

2. Reconfirms the recommendations for action already outlined in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, bb/ as well as in Agenda 21 cc/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, all of which are based on full participation of all actors in the human settlements development and management process and all of which require the development of operational enabling environments;

3. Recommends that national action to improve shelter conditions address gaps that exist in many cases between the formulation of policies and the implementation of programmes, deal with issues of diversity, improve the capacity for transparent, efficient and just governance in the area of human settlements, promote the role of partnerships in the shelter sector and facilitate the expansion of successful, innovative approaches on a large scale;

4. Also recommends that enabling strategies devised for meeting the shelter needs of the poor, in particular of those in developing countries, be strengthened by public-sector measures necessary to promote the redistribution of power and resources to local levels, and by the creation of an institutional framework conducive to the implementation of such strategies;

5. Further recommends that national action promote greater choice in the shelter process to enable people to adjust their diverse and ever-changing shelter needs to different housing submarkets, tenures, costs and standards;

6. Emphasizes that government policies that facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure, create transparent land regulations and ensure simplicity, affordability and flexibility in planning and building standards should be considered as a fundamental step in increasing housing supply and in facilitating an operational enabling environment in the housing sector;

7. Urges Governments to implement procedures that could provide every household with security of tenure in order to mobilize the largely unrecognized self-help potential of the poor;

8. Urges Governments and other agencies to develop large-scale affordable housing-credit systems, by which low-income households and the informal building sector can be assisted, with financial support in the housing sphere being directed towards people rather than towards housing;

9. Encourages Governments to pay greater attention to research, training, education and the dissemination of information and other vital elements of capacity-building required to implement the enabling approach to shelter development;

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aa/ HS/C/15/5.

bb/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

cc/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

10. Urges the international community to pay greater attention to assisting developing countries in alleviating land market constraints, encouraging shelter development and improving urban management, especially by concentrating on capacity-building to ensure sustainable progress;

11. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to intensify the monitoring and evaluation of progress in national action to improve shelter conditions, to incorporate the findings of this research into the work programme of the Centre and to report on the results to the Commission at its sixteenth session;

12. Invites the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat 11) to take note of the results of the review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1976, and to incorporate them into the Statement of Principles and Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, in particular for the programmes related to the theme "Adequate Shelter for All".

3rd plenary meeting
1 May 1995

15/11. Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling chapters 7 and 28 of Agenda 21, dd/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the main objective of which is to improve the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 concerning the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) with a view to arresting the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately creating the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis,

Recalling also the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), at its first session, at Geneva held from 11 to 22 April 1994, on the preparation of national reports, ee/

Recalling further its decision 14/25 of 5 May 1993, in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was requested to prepare, inter alia, a theme paper on sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation

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dd/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

ee/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/49/37), annex I, decision I/2.

of natural disasters for the consideration of the Commission at its fifteenth session,

Noting with concern that in many countries, especially developing ones, the pressure of population growth and urbanization is having adverse implications for the supply of adequate shelter, environmental infrastructure and services; that, because of their concentrated nature, human settlements are significant consumers of natural resources and that the development and management of human settlements may represent a substantial component in unsustainable production and consumption patterns; and that as urban development occurs it may have severe impacts on land and water resources and on the atmosphere, unless vigorous action is taken to prevent such adverse effects,

Recognizing that the call for sustainable development in Agenda 21 is not simply for environmental protection, but also for a new concept of economic growth that provides fairness and equal opportunity for all people in the world without destroying the world's natural resources and without further compromising the carrying capacity of the globe, and that sustainable development rests on three pillars, namely, environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability,

Recognizing also the importance of cities to national economic growth, their disproportionate contribution to national productivity and their role in facilitating cultural advancement and social development,

Noting with concern that, as part of the rapid increase in urban populations, rural settlements on urban fringes are being absorbed into the urban domain and agricultural areas and forest resources are being converted to urban use, often in wasteful and environmentally damaging ways; that land that can be obtained by the poor is often unsuited to settlements; that the lack of security of land tenure for the poor is a major problem; that the majority of the urban poor in developing countries reside in areas with grossly inadequate infrastructure; and that the urban poor are often unable to afford land,

Recognizing further that natural disasters are an outcome of the interaction between natural hazards and vulnerable conditions which cause severe losses to people and their environments; that natural disasters require outside intervention and assistance at national and international levels in addition to individual and communal responses; and that the challenge of comprehensive disaster-mitigation programmes in urban areas is to continue general economic development and provide jobs, shelter and basic amenities while addressing the environmental and equity problems that are the real causes of vulnerability to natural hazards,

1. Commends the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the report on sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters; ff/

2. Recommends that Governments adopt and ensure the implementation, at the national and local levels, of the following measures for the sustainable development of human settlements:

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ff/ HS/C/15/6.

(a) Decentralization of decision-making and creation of an enabling environment to support the initiatives of local authorities and community organizations;

(b) Formulation and implementation of local Agenda 21 plans and improvement of intersectoral coordination at the local, regional and national levels;

(c) Establishment of regulatory and incentive structures to encourage sustainable use of resources;

(d) Promotion of the use of non-polluting appropriate technologies in human settlements activities, particularly in the areas of energy and transport, so as to minimize and eliminate, if possible, negative impacts on the environment;

(e) Increasing financial resources at the level of the local authority for promoting national sustainable urban development objectives;

3. Calls upon Governments to adopt and facilitate the implementation of the following measures for sustainable urban land development and management:

(a) Promotion of access to land and security of tenure for all urban residents, in particular the poor, through improved land market transparency and innovative mechanisms to utilize public and private land, including fiscal incentives to bring unutilized land into use, improved land-delivery and land-tenure systems and, where appropriate, direct government and municipal landownership;

(b) Decentralization and simplification of land registration and, where appropriate, privatization of land survey departments, as well as improvement of urban land-use planning and management methods;

(c) Promotion of land-use planning, taking into account the density factor in a way that allows adequate social services and sustainable infrastructure to be provided, including measures to promote utilization of underutilized plots;

(d) Strengthening of conservation measures at all levels, both preventive and remedial, aimed at minimizing physical degradation of land and eliminating pollution, in particular from industrial waste;

(e) Strengthening of the role of land as the cornerstone of urban municipal finance, including measures for more effective taxation of the value added on privately owned land resulting from public infrastructure investments, as well as adoption of land and property taxes designed to encourage more economical use of land and discourage speculative withholding of land suitable for development;

(f) Compilation of national inventories of land and other ecological resources and formulation of long-term spatial strategies to guide land resources development;

4. Urges Governments to promote and facilitate the implementation of the following measures for the mitigation of natural disasters, taking into account

the outcome of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, and the Yokohama Strategy: gg/

(a) Setting up of institutional structures and decision-making processes that ensure that mitigation of natural disasters becomes an integral part of sustainable human settlements development;

(b) Building up of national collective memories of disasters, their effects, methods used to combat them and means to reduce their impacts;

(c) Improvement and regulation of access to land for housing the poor in order to limit encroachment of residential settlements onto hazardous sites;

(d) Encouragement of and assistance to local authorities to direct human settlements development onto vacant public land in relatively safe locations through the provision of infrastructure;

(e) Identification of hazardous sites and their conversion into alternative uses, thereby protecting them from illegal occupation for residential purposes;

(f) Reduction and elimination, if possible, of the threats of already identified hazardous sites;

(g) Development and use of housing designs, building materials and construction methods that can mitigate the effects of natural disasters;

(h) Enhancement of technical assistance to regional and local institutions and provision of training in the management of natural disasters to technicians, professionals and administrators;

5. Urges Governments and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to pay special attention to the recommendations of the present resolution in the national and international preparations for the Conference;

6. Urges the Executive Director to increase efforts within available means to assist countries and, through them, their local authorities with the formulation and implementation of Agenda 21 plans at the local level;

7. Requests the Executive Director to review, as part of the work programme of the Centre, recent trends in the development of urban informal settlements in developing countries, as well as countries in transition, including assessment of government policies towards such settlements, with a view to recommending future policy directions;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to prepare, as part of the work programme of the Centre, further practical guidelines for sustainable human settlements planning and management in areas prone to natural disasters, in addition to current work on flood-prone areas.

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gg/ Report of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994 (A/CONF.172/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

15/12. Coordination matters

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 10/7 of 16 April 1987 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 34/114 of 14 December 1979 concerning cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind that the role and functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements will be reviewed at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system hh/ and cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations, ii/

Noting with satisfaction the increasing efforts of the Centre in fostering cooperation with the organizations within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations,

Noting also that the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) has provided an impetus for further cooperation between the Centre and United Nations system organizations,

Noting further the expanded areas of system-wide cooperation resulting from the leading role the Centre is playing in coordinating the system's activities in the implementation of Agenda 21 jj/ relating to human settlements;

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in pursuing efforts aimed at achieving higher levels of coordination and cooperation within the present financial constraints;

2. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to expand further the Centre's coordinating role in the implementation of the parts of Agenda 21 relating to human settlements and the system's preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

3. Also requests the Executive Director to intensify efforts aimed at generating collaborative programmes with regional development banks;

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hh/ HS/C/15/11.

ii/ HS/C/15/12.

jj/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, *Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, *vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

4. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to pursue efforts for coordination with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank, and with intergovernmental organizations and relevant financial institutions outside the United Nations system for more effective implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, kk/ relevant action programmes under Agenda 21, and the activities relating to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to report the results of such coordination to the Commission at its sixteenth session.

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15/13. Cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of human settlements development

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 14/17 of 5 May 1993, in which it endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the Meeting on Governmental/Non-governmental Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements, held at The Hague in November 1992, ll/

Recalling also Agenda 21, mm/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in chapter 27 of which non-governmental organizations are described as social partners, and also the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, nn/ in which non-governmental organizations are accorded an important role in promoting social development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 oo/ and stated that enabling policies, whereby the full potential and resources of all governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of human settlements were utilized, were to be at the heart of national and international efforts,

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kk/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

ll/ HS/C/14/2/Add.4.

mm/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

nn/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

oo/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 8, addendum (A/43/8/Add.1).

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations, pp/

Noting that the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) provides the opportunity for both governmental and non-governmental organizations to put into practice the recommendations of the Meeting on Governmental/Non-governmental Cooperation in the Field of Human Settlements,

Noting also that the Executive Director has held regular consultations with representatives of non-governmental organizations, and has facilitated the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to the extent possible within available resources,

1. Commends Member States that have established successful mechanisms of cooperation with non-governmental organizations and with community-based organizations in the field of human settlements, and encourages those States that have not done so to consider the establishment of such mechanisms;

2. Commends the positive role played by non-governmental organizations in the improvement of human settlements and in the work of the Commission;

3. Urges Member States to take further steps to involve non-governmental organizations fully in the implementation and monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, in the implementation of the relevant parts of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in the national preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to expand the cooperation between the Centre and non-governmental organizations, to continue to hold regular consultations with non-governmental organizations and to strengthen, subject to the availability of resources, the capacity of non-governmental organizations and of community-based organizations in the areas of research, training, advocacy, information dissemination and intermediation;

5. Invites Governments to increase the level of support given to non-governmental organizations to strengthen their role as partners in the field of human settlements development;

6. Also invites Governments to provide the required resources to enable the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to expand its cooperation with non-governmental organizations and to strengthen the networking efforts of non-governmental organizations so as to increase their potential and contribution to the monitoring and implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and of national human settlements policies and strategies;

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pp/ HS/C/15/12.

7. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission as part of his regular reports on cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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15/14. Concrete measures towards the full realization of children's housing rights

The Commission on Human Settlements,

Recalling that the right of the child to an adequate standard of living, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing, as well as the right of the child to water provision, sanitation and privacy, are recognized by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, gg/ in articles 16, 24 and 27, and that this Convention has been ratified by 178 countries,

Recalling also resolution 1994/8 of 23 August 1994 on children and the right to adequate housing, adopted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in which Governments are reminded to comply, to the maximum extent of available resources, with all existing obligations concerning the legally recognized rights of children to an adequate standard of living and the continuous improvement of living and housing conditions,

Conscious of the fact that the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of the child, the future generation, depends on a safe, secure and adequate place to live,

Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Recognizing also that 40 per cent of the world's population is made up of children and that among the people living in poor shelter conditions an even higher percentage are children,

Alarmed by the inevitable fallout of growing urbanization resulting in increasing numbers of street children, increased sexual abuse of children, increased child sexual exploitation and child labour, all with tremendous adverse consequences on the health and education of children, and even of life itself,

Recognizing that the cumulative effects of a lack of basic services and the survival strategy of poor urban families are especially evident on the position of the girl child, who must devote a large amount of time to running a household and covering the gap for missing basic services such as water provision and care for younger siblings, with, as a consequence, lack of time for play and recreation and high school drop-out rates, thus violating articles 28, 29 and 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

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gg/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex. Child is defined in the Convention as every human being below the age of 18 years old.

Recognizing also the rights and duties of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her rights in a manner consistent with the evolving capacity of the child,

Recognizing further that children have the right to express their views in all matters affecting them in accordance with their age and maturity, and to receive appropriate information, as specified in articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Acknowledging that children are capable of expressing their views and have special needs and interests regarding their housing and living conditions,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to place on the agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission an item entitled "The rights of the child, in particular with respect to shelter and related services";

2. Also requests the Executive Director to convene, within available resources, an expert seminar on the rights of the child in particular with respect to shelter and related services, prior to the convening of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

3. Further requests the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the United Nations Children's Fund, with a view to developing appropriate mechanisms, including indicators, relating to the relevant provisions contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

4. Requests the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to take full account of the provisions of the present resolution.

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B. Decisions

15/15. Fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the draft of the fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, rr/ prepared by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), decided to incorporate into the draft the additions and amendments submitted by delegations relating to their respective countries, and to submit the revised report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

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rr/ HS/C/15/3/Add.5, annex.

15/16. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission on Human Settlements, having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the activities of the conference secretariat, ss/ decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to bring to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) the results of the deliberations of the Commission on this subject at its fifteenth session, in particular the appeal made for increased resources to be made available by those in a position to do so for in-country preparatory activities. tt/ It further decided to include in the provisional agenda for its sixteenth session an item entitled "Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

15/17. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997

At its 2nd plenary meeting on 1 May 1995, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997 and instructed the Executive Director of the Centre to discharge his responsibilities in acting upon element 2 of subprogramme 6, taking fully into account the background of discussions held during the fifteenth session of the Commission on the issues of the right to housing and its resolution 15/2. The Commission decided to designate subprogrammes 1, 2 and 4 as high priority, while no subprogramme was designated low priority.

15/18. Budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997

At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted the budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997, subject to the following observations:

(a) The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should reduce administrative costs in order to allocate more resources for substantive activities;

(b) The Centre should intensify its cooperation with external partners as a way of mobilizing resources for the execution of the work programme;

(c) The Centre should explore the scope for increasing the level of inputs from national Governments in the execution of joint programmes and projects.

(d) The Centre should comply fully with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report on

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ss/ HS/C/15/4.

tt/ HS/C/15/L.1 (No. 3).

activities and work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). uu/

15/19. New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system

At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission decided to request the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to transmit to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) the views of Member States on the new objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system. vv/

15/20. Themes for consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its sixteenth session

At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 May 1995, the Commission on Human Settlements decided that the two themes for its sixteenth session should be: (a) the contribution of the private and non-governmental sectors to shelter delivery to low-income groups; and (b) the management of natural resources in the context of human settlements.

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uu/ HS/C/15/8/Add.1, annex.

vv/ HS/C/15/11/Add.1.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Commission

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
		Letter of convocation
		Notification by the Executive Director
		Letter on pledging to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
3	HS/C/15/1	Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements
3	HS/C/15/1/Add.1 and Corr.1	Annotation to the provisional agenda: note by the secretariat
4	HS/C/15/2	Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.1	Promoting the advancement of women in human settlements: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.2	Towards a housing rights strategy: practical contributions by UNCHS (Habitat) on promoting, ensuring and protecting the full realization of the human right to adequate housing: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.3	Strengthening of regional activities: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.4	Housing requirements of the Palestinian people: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.5	Building materials and health: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/2/Add.6/Rev.1	Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): note by the secretariat
5	HS/C/15/3	Implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.1 and Corr.1	Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: proposed plan of action and timetable for 1996-1997: note by the secretariat
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.2	Urban and housing indicators: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.3	Mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.4	Mid-term review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: overview of survey findings, examples of "best practices" and external support for the implementation of the Strategy: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.5 and Corr.1	Fourth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: note by the Executive Director
5	HS/C/15/3/Add.6	Developments in urban and housing indicators: report of the Executive Director
6	HS/C/15/4	Progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on the activities of the Conference secretariat: report of the Executive Director
6	HS/C/15/4/Add.1	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): note by the secretariat
7	HS/C/15/5	Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, 1976: report of the Executive Director
7	HS/C/15/6	Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters: report of the Executive Director
8	HS/C/15/7	Draft work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1996-1997: report of the Executive Director

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
9	HS/C/15/8	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997: report of the Executive Director
9	HS/C/15/8/Add.1	Proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
9	HS/C/15/8/Add.2	Financial matters: use of extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the 1994-1995 period: report of the Executive Director
9	HS/C/15/9	Financial and other assistance provided to and among developing countries for human settlements: report of the Executive Director
10	HS/C/15/10	Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme
10	HS/C/15/11	Coordination and cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system: report of the Executive Director
10	HS/C/15/11/Add.1	New objectives, role and place of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the United Nations system: report of the Executive Director
10	HS/C/15/11/Add.2	Implementation of Agenda 21: report of the Executive Director
10	HS/C/15/12	Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations: report of the Executive Director
10	HS/C/15/13/ and Corr.1	Matters arising out of the resolutions of major legislative agencies of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission: note by the secretariat
10	HS/C/15/13/Add.1	Report on the World Summit for Social Development: note by the secretariat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
11	HS/C/15/14 and Corr.1	Themes for consideration by the Commission at its sixteenth session: report of the Executive Director
13	HS/C/15/15	Arrangements and provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission
10	HS/C/15/CRP.1	Main decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly (forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions), of the Economic and Social Council and of other United Nations bodies of relevance to the work of the Commission
8	HS/C/15/CRP.2	Draft work programmes of the regional commissions in the field of human settlements for the biennium 1996-1997: note by the secretariat
9	HS/C/15/CRP.3	United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: financial report and audited statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1993 and report of the Board of Auditors: note by the secretariat
	HS/C/15/CRP.4	(Not taken up)
7	HS/C/15/CRP.5	Review of national action to provide housing for all since Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements: report of the Executive Director - executive summary
7	HS/C/15/CRP.6	Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters: report of the Executive Director - executive summary
3	HS/C/15/INF.1	State of preparations of the documents for the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session as at 28 February 1995
3	HS/C/15/INF.2/Rev.2	List of documents before the Commission
4	HS/C/15/INF.3	Meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat: note by the Executive Director
4	HS/C/15/INF.4	Operational Activities Report, 1995: note by the secretariat
7	HS/C/15/INF.5	Draft second Global Report on Human Settlements: note by the secretariat

Agenda item	Symbol	Title
9	HS/C/15/INF.6	Status of voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as at 1 April 1995: note by the secretariat
4	HS/C/15/INF.7	Towards a housing rights strategy practical contributions by UNCHS (Habitat) on promoting, ensuring and protecting the full realization of the human right to adequate housing: a background paper
4	HS/C/15/INF.8	Building materials and health: background paper
8	HS/C/15/INF.9	Revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/15/INF.10/Rev.2	List of participants
9	HS/C/15/INF.11	Implementation of the recommendations of the ACABQ on the budget for the biennium 1996-1997: note by the secretariat

ANNEX III

Summaries of statements

A. Statement by His Excellency Mr. David Johansson, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Chairman of the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session

In his opening statement to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session, the Chairman of the Commission at its fourteenth session stressed the accomplishment of the fourteenth session, namely, the formulation of the two major substantive themes to guide the preparatory process for Habitat II: Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, and Adequate shelter for all.

The further consideration of those two themes during the fifteenth session had the particular objective of guiding the future work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the objectives, role and place of the Centre within the United Nations system, as well as proposals for the work programme and budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

In respect of the future capacity and the volume and quality of the services to be provided by the Centre, the Chairman expressed concern regarding the provision of adequate funding for the Centre to assume an expanded role. New and innovative ways of mobilizing funding must be explored, including opportunities to attract private-sector funding.

B. Address by Mr. W. N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

In his opening address, the Assistant Secretary-General extended a warm welcome to all delegations and expressed the hope that they would take the opportunity to comment on both the Commission and the Preparatory Committee meetings as they were mutually complementary. The Commission session, the last one before the Habitat II Conference, would allow for a backward- and forward-looking perspective on the work of the Commission.

The Assistant Secretary-General noted that when the Vancouver Conference was under preparation, human settlements issues were just beginning to affect public consciousness. Today, they were the most critical, as the world had undergone many changes which had led to a series of international conferences, beginning with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and ending with Habitat II, to chart the international policy agenda of the twenty-first century.

The Assistant Secretary-General stated that, in the Agenda for Development, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called for a human-centred "culture of development", in which peace, economic growth, the environment, social justice and democracy were important components. In addition, as human settlement developed, the emphasis of development strategies would inevitably shift towards urban areas as the hubs of production and exchange in a global economy, to generate jobs and economic growth.

The Assistant Secretary-General underscored the critical nature of the session, and the relationship between human settlements development and United Nations work in other critical areas. Therefore, human settlements policies and programmes should not be implemented in ignorance of broader social and economic trends. Such issues involved natural resource consumption, environmental protection, resource mobilization and finance, poverty alleviation and employment generation, and governance and democratization.

The Assistant Secretary-General noted that, without development with a human settlement focus, the promise of economic opportunities could not be fulfilled. That would ultimately contribute to the marginalization of communities and the collapse of civil society. If infrastructure development was neglected, the environment and health of the poor would suffer the most.

The Assistant Secretary-General then stated that rural human settlements issues should not be neglected, as the overall situation of the urban and rural poor had become worse, with 40 per cent more people living in absolute poverty compared to 15 years ago.

The Assistant Secretary-General stated that, in the light of the deteriorating human settlements situation, it was not only international bodies and national Governments that were challenged, but also entrepreneurs and corporations, non-governmental organization, women's and community groups, and youth.

The Assistant Secretary-General further suggested that the Centre might have to become an information and knowledge centre. Such a function could in future become an important one for United Nations organizations.

The Assistant Secretary-General then noted that in countries beset by conflicts, such as Rwanda, Burundi and Bosnia and Herzegovina, human settlements were being destroyed faster than they were being constructed. The Commission and Habitat II could not ignore the issue. He went on to express regret for what he termed "donor fatigue", but also stressed that resources were available within countries and that more attempts to mobilize private-sector funds should be made.

The Assistant Secretary-General then thanked the former Executive Director of the Centre, Dr. A. Ramachandran for his stewardship of the Centre and his role in setting the direction of its programmes. He also thanked the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, for her management of the Centre during a critical period.

In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General observed that there were many difficulties to confront in the future work of the Centre, the most important being the growing public apathy to poverty, unemployment and human suffering.

C. Statement made on behalf of Ms. E. Dowdeswell, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

In her statement, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stressed that, as a consequence of the greater focus on the human environment, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) would be drawn closer together in providing people with their basic needs.

The ,oint report to the Commission on cooperation between UNEP and the Centre noted substantial cooperation and showed a productive cross-fertilization of ideas over a wide spectrum of activities. In addition, UNEP was making a substantial contribution to the United Nations Conference for Human Settlements (Habitat II) by providing staff and equipment. Those activities included the preparation of a report by the World Resources Institute on sets of indicators; publication of a series of case-studies; and the joint organization of a conference on water resources management in large metropolises. In that context, the Executive Director informed the Committee that UNEP was determined to strengthen cooperation in various areas.

The specific role of UNEP in regard to attaining sustainable urban development would focus on assisting the stakeholders in the process to increase their knowledge and understanding of the nature of and possible solutions to environmental problems in urban communities.

As a specific area on which UNEP intended to focus, the Executive Director mentioned the environmental impact of transport systems. It was a major environmental problem, having an enormous impact on the quality of life in large cities.

In its proposed work programme for 1996-1997, UNEP planned to support the work of the Centre in improving the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people. Finally, the Executive Director assured the Commission that she would carry out all the extra tasks that would arise out of Habitat II. She thanked the Centre for its continued cooperation and looked forward to a further productive biennium of combined contributions to the cause of achieving sustainable habitats for mankind.

ANNEX IV

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session

It gives me great pleasure to extend my greetings to all the participants assembled in Nairobi today to attend the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

This session of the Commission carries a special significance. It is the last session before the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Habitat II will conclude the series of global conferences held under the umbrella of the United Nations during this decade to forge the elements of a new common global strategy of people-centred and sustainable development for the twenty-first century.

The challenges before us at this juncture in history are daunting. Fifty years after the creation of the United Nations, war, absolute poverty, hunger, lack of adequate shelter, disease and illiteracy are the lot of one fifth of humanity.

An additional source of great concern is that by the early decades of the next century, the overwhelming majority in every country will be living in cities and towns. Urban settlements will become the primary place for the struggle for sustainable development and the hubs of an international network of production and exchange in the emerging global economy. Cities will face the influx of populations clamouring for jobs and housing. Huge financial outlays for infrastructure and service will be needed. We must be prepared. This explains the importance of the "City Summit" in Istanbul in 1996, and its Global Plan of Action, for the planet's sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

The recommendations of the Commission at its fifteenth session on actions to be taken by the international community during the remaining 13 months of preparation will be valuable contributions to the "City Summit". The Governments and organizations assembled here today need to provide leadership and guidance for this great global undertaking, in which all elements of civil society must participate. The record of achievements of the Commission during its past 17 years of work provides me with the confidence that it will play its full part in this great endeavour.

I wish you a successful session.